

CLARK COUNTY ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

**CLARK COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
500 S. Grand Central Parkway, Commission Chambers
Las Vegas, Nevada 89121
January 16, 2014
6:30 p.m.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: DAVIS, RICK (RD)
 LAYNE, KAREN (KL)
 SAYEGH, S. SUSAN (SSS)
 WHITE, DEBBIE DVM (DW)

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m

2. Approval of agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made and seconded

3. Approval of November 14, 2013 Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded.

4. Selection of Chair and Vice-Chair

Motion was made to retain KL as Chair and for DW to be Vice Chair. Motion approved

5. Draw Lots to determine which AAC members serve a 2 year term and which serve a 1 year term

JASON ALLSWANG (JA) – 3 members will have 1 term that expires in odd years; 2 members will have 2 terms that expire in even years. There are folded pieces of paper on which is either a 1 or a 2. If you draw 1, it is a 1-year term. If you draw 2, you serve a 2-year term. Members motioned and approved method of selection. DW has a 1; KL has a 1; SSS has a 2; RD has a 1; so MARY GIPAYA (MG) has a 2.

6. Hear the appeal of Vicious Animal Declaration by DeSean Flake for Taz, a black Pit Bull, 713 E. Sahara Avenue, #424, Las Vegas, NV

KL – CCAC will present their case and then Mr. Flake will speak.. JA – on December 5, 2013, Fire Department dispatch contacted us to assist paramedics at 713 E. Sahara, Unit 424 for a female that was attacked by a pit bull. Our officer arrived on the scene and found Taz, an intact male pit bull, had attacked a citizen. The attack was unprovoked and the dog was RAL at the time of the incident. The dog caused substantial bodily harm to the victim's left leg. She was taken by ambulance to Sunrise Hospital. When the officer responded to quarantine the dog, he continued to show aggressive behavior and had to be put on a catchpole in order to ensure the safety of the officer. When the call came on the radio for the bite, as the Chief I went out to assist the officer on the scene. I arrived, about 15 minutes after the call. The officer requested assistance getting the dog into her truck as he was showing aggressive behavior. It took both of us quite a bit of time to get him safely into the truck. We have pictures of the victim's wounds. RD – is Taz being held at AFI? Has any one had routine interaction with this dog? JA – the owner has been visiting him at AFI. RD – has anyone from CCAC or AFI observed the dog since it was picked up? JA – the dog is being quarantined so no one else interacts with the dog.

DW – when the dog was acting aggressively, was it in the residence? JA – the caretaker for the dog had control of him when she surrendered control to our officer; he was showing aggressive. KL – is the injured person willing to speak about her injuries. JA doesn't know if she is in the audience tonight.

JULIE CICCIO (JC) has not fully recovered from the wound. It is still healing but is unable to pay for surgery, cleaning out the wound and a skin graft. I was told it would take 6 more weeks to heal. I was released from the hospital on December 5 with medication. The medication wasn't helping so I went back and they admitted me for one day on December 17. They gave me medication again that wasn't helping so I went back on December 26. I got IV's and stayed there until January 3 and was sent home with antibiotics. I have to wear bandages on it all the time and clean it every day but the bacteria is still in it. KL – you are indicating that without a skin graft, you are going to have to wait another 6 weeks for the injury to heal? JC – I had a lawyer but they dropped my case because he has no insurance for the dog and I have bills to pay due to this injury that I cannot pay. KL – was there any request made of the dog owner to take care of any of the medical costs? JC – his mom said she would pay for everything but that was when it was happening. JA – that would be a civil matter. KL – at the time of the injury an offer was made but it has not been followed through. ROY MATTHIS (RM) – the victim's father - There has been no contact. They haven't come forward offering to pay any bills. An attorney checked into it. They have no insurance or means of support to pay the bills which at this point are about \$30,000 because she got an e.coli bacterial infection from the bite and almost cost her her leg. At one time, they thought they would have to amputate it. She spent a lot of time in the hospital, has been through a lot of misery. When she first went in, the wound was not properly cleaned out. They sutured her leg because the dog tore a big piece of her calf and leg. That caused the e.coli infection to spread and it was a race to try to keep from losing her leg. It still hasn't been cleaned out properly because no doctor will touch it. Sunrise sent her to UMC. UMC sent her back to Sunrise. She is still traumatized about it. It is a vicious animal. JC doesn't think they should get the dog back because she is afraid someone else will get injured too.

DW asked if the other animals are in the possession of the owner. JA – we did not impound them so we don't know what he has done with them.

DeSEAN FLAKE (DF) – Taz is my dog and he was not RAL. It happened maybe 2 ft from my back door. The proof is there. There is blood on my back door so he wasn't RAL. I was out of the country and my mom was watching the dog. My mom was our pet sitter. We had 2 puppies at the time. I have a female dog and Taz, the male. KL – your mother is not here tonight so you are presenting what she is saying. Is that correct? DF – yes she had to work. We had 2 puppies left from the litter of 6. My mom was watching them. The way our apartment is set up our kitchen is separate from the rest of the house and we have a sliding door that can close off the kitchen from the rest of the house. We kept the puppies in the kitchen and my other dogs, Coca and Taz, separate in the living room in their own separate cages with the door closed. I told my mom that Coca knows how to open the sliding door so she needs to make sure all the house doors are closed. For some reason that day, she had the back door open where the kitchen is and she had the puppies on the porch while she was cleaning the mess they had made. I guess Ms. Ciccio was walking by, saw the puppies on the porch and bent down to play with them. I guess Coca heard them on the porch and opened the door. From what I heard from Tanja (the office manager) who said that Ms. Ciccio said the white dog knocked her down and then Taz bit her. So he wasn't RAL. It happened on my back porch because Coca opened the back door and is very protective of her puppies and she has been getting progressively worse as she saw them go away to different homes and she has been losing her babies. She opened the door and Taz followed the other dog. He wasn't off the leash roaming around the property. I also gave my number to the office manager to give to Ms. Ciccio to contact her as they wouldn't give me her number. I do have insurance. I didn't bring the insurance with me but one of the officers from animal control came to my house and took a copy of it. I asked the manager to contact Ms. Ciccio a few times so I could contact her. I even told my insurance about it and they told me if the bills were less than my deductible to take care of it myself but if it was more to go ahead with the insurance. I never got a call from Ms. Ciccio. Finally yesterday I called the office and asked them to contact Ms. Ciccio so she could call me and they finally gave me her number. I meant to contact her but I have been running around the last couple days, getting the letters and everything from people for this today. SSS – what kind of insurance are you referring to? DF – my renter's insurance through Farmers and they cover dog bites up to \$100,000. KL – we don't have the office manager here. We do not know if that is what happened. There is an issue in terms of payment. You say dog wasn't RAL. But you were not there. DF – her blood

dripped right on my back porch, 2ft away. There is not blood leading from a walkway up to my door. The blood is right there by my door. SSS– was she trespassing on your property or was this a community area? DF – she was not trespassing. It is a hallway and there is another apartment right across the way on the same back porch. KL – do we have a photograph. JA has a google map and he can confirm whether or not that is the area. KL asked if he had a breeder's permit? DF – no, it was an accident. DW – has there been any previous bite incidents, whether they have been reported or unreported? DF – one unreported. I wasn't there.

NADIA MOORE (NM) has lived with DF for a while. We had a neighbor that was active with Taz. He would pet him, come see him. We would walk our dogs together outside. This neighbor started to get a little bit sketchy and odd. I was home alone. DF was out of town working and this neighbor kept coming around my backdoor at night. One night I opened the backdoor, he was there and Taz bit him. I invited him in and told him I would completely understand if he wanted to report it. I was completely frantic. I invited him in, put Taz away and cleaned him up. I told him we should do the right thing and report it. He was fine and felt that because he knew Taz and wanted to see him again after that, he didn't want to report it. He wanted to keep talking to Taz and be his friend and work with Taz. We settled on getting him a new pair of jeans and that was that. RD – where did this bite occur? ND – he nipped him on his leg. It happened in the back door area of the property. RD – is that a common area that anybody can go through? NM – yes. This space is very small and even after this bite, I continued to have problems with this guy and I had to go through my office. This turns into a whole other big thing but this was the catalyst. RD – he was walking on property that anybody can walk on. Taz came out of the residence and bit him? NM – I opened the door a little bit and Taz heard him outside creeping around my backdoor and jumped past me and bit him. RD – so he was creeping on the property? NM – yes the area between the two back doors and our apartments is about 5 ft long and there were no lights working for a while. Maintenance had not come to fix it and this guy would stand there right next to my door. He wouldn't knock and I would see him standing there and ask him what's up, what are you doing. He said he just wanted this or that. He never knocked. He just stood there in the dark by my window. RD – you opened the door. He was standing there in a common area where anybody can be and Taz went out a bit him. SSS asked when the incident happened. NM – in October 2013. SSS – since you are not a licensed breeder, can you explain why both your dogs are not s/n? DF – I haven't had the funds. I am working toward it. KL – have you contacted any community groups to see if they could help you with s/n of the dogs? DF – no. SSS – where are the 2 puppies and the female. DF – I found homes for the puppies and the female is with me at my house.

JA has up on the screen a photo of DF's residence showing the door where the attack occurred. DF confirmed that was correct that it was the back entrance. JA – this is off of Karen Avenue, the southern entrance to the apartment complex. KL – it appears to be the common area of the complex. JA by definition, if it is not on the property, and in this case, if it was not confined to a patio or balcony, the dog would be considered RAL. DW asked if he had a letter from a veterinarian that has seen Taz about his behavior previously. DF – no, one of the attendants at AFI, who always takes me back to visit him said he was one of the sweetest ones she has come across. I asked if she could give a statement but her manager would not let her as she did not have physical contact with him. She only interacted with him through the gate. RD – have you engaged or thought about engaging a professional trainer to have Taz assessed? DF – yes I have been to an obedience trainer. His name is Tino. NM – we went the week before we left for Costa Rica, we started seeing a trainer with him and the trainer said he was extremely responsive. We were having good training sessions and we were going to continue as soon as we got back. DW asked how long they have had Taz. DF said he is only a 1 ½. He was born on June 10, 2012 and has had him since he was 8 weeks old. RD – since Taz has bit 2 people, what assurances could you offer to this Committee to show that this would never happen again? DF – the assurance that he is a young puppy, we started seeing a trainer and got good responses with the trainer who is willing to work with him. We have a couple trainers lined up. I want to put him through a few different courses to get him certified with a few different trainers. He is my dog and I don't want to see anything happen to him. I will do whatever it takes for me to do to make sure it never happens to anybody. We first got a Dangerous Declaration and with that

I can have a permit to get him back with certain stipulations and certain things I need to do and within a day or two, I had everything that I needed to have to get him back. I made sure he had a muzzle, a leash, a cage that was approved by CCAC. I am willing to do whatever I need to do to make sure this never happens again. SSS – does the apartment complex where you live allow pets? DF – they allowed pit bulls but I had to move because of this incident and I now live somewhere else that does allow pits. SSS – so if Taz was returned to you, he would be in a location where you can legally own a dog at your place of residence? DF – correct. It has a backyard and a garage. KL – do they know that you have a dog that has been cited? DF – the owners of the house are aware of it. I don't know if they rent or own it, but the people I live with who are the tenants, my aunt and uncle, are aware of it. RD – did you talk to your trainer after this incident? DF- no I haven't spoken to him because Taz has been in quarantine. I have been waiting, hoping to get him back so I could talk to my trainer to continue with the sessions. SSS – if the dog is returned to you, would you be able to produce a lease agreement that supports your statement that you are allowed to have dogs, in particular, pit bulls? DF – yes.

JA – for clarification if we can get the address of the new location so we can determine if it is in one of the cities, he would have to coordinate with them if you overturn the vicious, making sure they would allow a dangerous dog. DF – it is 8787 Roping Rodeo, Unit 102. JA – it is County. KL – the elements meet the vicious declaration. Do the committee members disagree with the assessment? Dog was in a community area and I see this as substantial bodily harm. This situation has not yet been resolved and resulted in permanent injury. It concerns me that the owner keeps talking about contacting the management office where he no longer lives but we have no witness statements that that actually occurred. DF – I can give you the office number and manager's name. I am sure she would be more than willing to tell you that I have been contacting her to get a hold of Ms. Ciccio. It is the hospital's fault that the wounds weren't cleaned out properly. Even if I had been able to take care of it and given her money up front, they still didn't take care of her wounds. I would have no control over that. RD – I agree with you and I am not comfortable that this would not happen again based on what has been presented here tonight. DF – I have letters from family members and friends who have been around him every day; friends who have only seen him a few times who live in different states. KL – please present those letters to the committee. DF – I also have videos. When they had puppies, I read up on whether we should bring the male around the puppies. Everywhere we read it was advised not to bring the male around the puppies at a young age because he might try to eat them or hurt them. We brought him around within a few days of the puppies being born. He was completely playful, laid down, licked the puppies, he was ecstatic about the puppies, curious and loved them. We felt completely safe and comfortable having him around the puppies at that young age even though everywhere we read advised us not to allow him in the same room as the puppies. KL – does not believe issue is dog's behavior around the puppies but around the adult. The video will not tell the Committee anything about the interaction. DF – if he were truly a vicious animal, he would attack anything, especially his puppies as the experts said he would. He is a young pup and can learn to grow and be responsive dog and react the way he should.

RD has been handling dogs for 36 years. It is all about owner control and the dog respecting its owner and understanding boundaries. From what has been presented here tonight, I am not seeing any of that and there is nothing to assure me that there is anything in the future to change that. SSS – I agree. One of my concerns is that DF just testified the reason his dogs are not s/n is because he cannot afford it. Even though he is making attempts to secure training for the dog, how is he going to pay for training if he cannot pay for s/n? We would be returning the dog to the same environment and the likelihood of him attacking again. KL – if the dog is returned he would be neutered prior to the return. JA – if you overturn the vicious, we would uphold the dangerous. At that point, we would go to the new residence, do an inspection and see if that meets the standards set forth in code in order to release the dog. If we are satisfied we would release the dog but he would need to be neutered before AFI released it to him. KL agrees with what is being said and has some concerns with this issue. DW agrees the incident does meet the vicious declaration and recognizes there are some factors that may have lead to the opportunity for this dog to be in this position. It is unfortunate. An unneutered dog is the number one male dog that will bite. There are a lot of factors that need to be rectified. I would be very concerned about public safety if the dog

was returned to the same or similar situation. KL is concerned that the dog was moved and CCAC was not notified. JA – We have control over the male. He did receive citations for having the female dog intact but he would not have to let us know that he moved. KL – if we were to declare the dog dangerous, he would have to notify you where the dog is going to be and anytime he moves, he would have to notify you as to that location. JA – he wouldn't be able to move the dog to a new location until we have done an inspection.

GINA GREISEN (GG) asked if there was originally a dangerous declaration that was changed to a vicious declaration? What date did this happen? SSS – December 5, 2013. GG – was the female fixed. JA – incident occurred on December 5. Originally owner was served with a Dangerous Declaration. All of the officers have the ability to serve a Dangerous Declaration. In order to serve a vicious, they need either a supervisor or me to do that. We had some staffing issues with our supervision at the time. The dog had reached the end of its quarantine period. He had requested a dangerous inspection. At that point, the officer was not satisfied that he would be able to meet the standards at the place he was living. The officer called me. At that point I said we would be doing a vicious declaration.

MICHELLE CARSON – doesn't believe the dog is vicious; the owners need to be accountable for the way they have treated the dog. A dog like that should not be in an apartment. As a parent of a dog, you need to know what they need. I would appreciate if all of you would help us who love dogs help them. I believe the issue lies with the owners who did not protect the dog. Dog's jobs are to protect their property. She said there was a man lurking around. Of course the dog is going to protect its own property. I don't think the dog is vicious. It needs to go to the right home. I also believe the owners should be cited and not be able to have animals. It is against the law to breed. We need CCAC to take care of the owners that do continue to breed. Use the law. Make them abide by the law.

RD motions to uphold Vicious Declaration. Motion is seconded with all in favor. Vicious Declaration is upheld.

7. Update on injuries to Wildlife in Sunset Park

ANOULA WYLDERICH (AW) – we met twice and agreed to posting signage throughout the park alerting visitors that wildlife harassment is a punishable crime. We have awareness and educational components that will be provided and televised to alert boaters, fishermen and park visitors as to proper conduct. We plan to encourage good stewardship in the park in the form of several clean up days throughout the year. The first one will take place on February 1. This will be a smaller preliminary event to get an idea as to what kind of manpower we need. We would like to have a more expansive community date event that we will probably do in April. During the month of December, I did pick up 2 geese on separate occasions with injured legs. A witness told me she saw kids throwing rocks at the birds and hitting them. She felt the injuries for one goose was due to that. Another woman called me and said she witnessed a fisherman getting exasperated because a duck was getting in his space so he took a baseball bat to it and beat it to death. He had recruited his child in that. She said she contacted Park Police. We know Sunset Park is a multiuse park and people should be able to pursue their pastimes, however, as we said in the past not when it injures wildlife. Initially we reported that it was assumed rogue or renegade boaters were harming wildlife. In the time since our last meeting, I had several meetings with the NAMBA group. They have stepped up their efforts. They have made sure their members are cautious and in compliance. They have spotters. They ejected 2 members from their group whose behavior was not in accordance with the group's standards. They have been instrumental in educating other park visitors not to feed the ducks or the geese near the boats and they have also rescued harmed wildlife that was a casualty of other activities such as fishing or park visitors who decided to beat on the waterfowl. I was at the park one day when Rob Martinez of the NAMBA group retrieved a bird from the lake that was a casualty of fishing and I will show you pictures he had taken. The bird had swallowed a fishing hook and then his legs and wings became entangled in the filament and he drowned. In the top picture, the fishing poll was actually attached to the filament. That was reckless behavior that is preventable. Our major issues deal with general park visitors

and fishermen who seem to think that waterfowl is fair game. Lately I have seen more incidents where it is the park visitors attacking the birds. Mr. Martinez had also videotaped kids slingshotting the ducks and geese. Hopefully the measure we are taking in this Committee will ameliorate the problem. I think our efforts will help to eliminate a lot of the injuries.

DW – do you feel the original problem may have been misinterpreted and that it was really just the general public? AW – I was basing it on what was told to me by witnesses. They stipulated that it was boater injuries. We don't know if it was a couple of renegade boaters. We were never able to find out who it was. I did have meetings with the boating group. I went out, I observed their behavior on different occasions. I was there when they didn't know I was there watching and I do see responsibility on their part. They have stepped that up as well. As I said the 2 members they had a problem with have been ejected from the group. I don't know what the individuals were doing. I do know they were not conforming to proper conduct. I have also noticed they are proactive in rescuing birds. They have attended our committee meetings. They are very interested in working with us to stem the problem. They want to protect their good name and their reputation. I don't have as much of a problem with them as I initially did based on what I have seen and experienced so far. KL –from what I understand from NDOW, the harassment of wildlife statute in NRS does not apply to the waterfowl. There was a suggestion made that we may want to look at our ordinance and do something in a similar fashion that might cover that. There is a meeting of the CC Committee to Manage Wildlife on January 28 in this building at 5:30. There is a public comment period right after the meeting starts. My suggestion is that you might want to bring this information. There are a large number of fishermen in CC. That is probably the largest licensed group. You may want to present this to them and see if you can get that group of people involved.

ROBERT MARTINEZ - NAMBA district director, we have made tremendous progress since the last meeting. Getting awareness out there with the anglers, helping them pick up the trash, getting the hooks off the ground. We see so much of the waterfowl suffering because of that. It has been a great experience to form this committee. We echo the concerns of the park patrons; we echo concerns of the AAC; we echo the concerns of the committee and the public. We have some really good things going now. It is almost as if we have adopted this lake and made it our own. We are protecting it. We are not going to let the waterfowl get hurt by anybody. We are going to make sure this park is clean. We are going to have our clean up days. We are going to make sure that anybody who is operating a remote control boat has their license, following our rules. Being the district director, I issue the licenses. If I have boaters that are not willing to follow those rules, that license is revoked. Park Police knows that; park management knows that; Code Enforcement knows that. Anybody at any time can walk up and enforce that rule. As long as we are all on the same page and we have that same communication, we are moving in the right direction. That was ultimately the goal. I am happy we had the opportunity to do it and I couldn't have done it without all of your help. We will help with the clean up days. We will have education days with the fishermen. We walk the lake and ask people to pick up their trash. We see fishing line when we are out there retrieving our boats; we pull it out of the water. At the end of the day, the waterfowl have the right of way. It is their lake. We come second. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to do this. KL – we certainly appreciate the work you have done. You are certainly welcome to attend that same meeting. It might be a good idea to talk about that issue and let that Committee work with you because it seems as if that element is missing.

8. Discuss creating a subcommittee to increase rabies vaccinations and awareness

DW – this stemmed out of 3 documented rabies cases of bats in CC area in 2013. My hope is to spearhead a committee to investigate the possibility of rabies education in poorly served areas in town and/or a community wide effort to improve our rabies compliance. Make sure pets are vaccinated. That would create opportunities for education and other things; other annual vaccinations, s/n. But start with the rabies aspect and how it protects not only our pets but also the human aspect of that disease. KL asked if she would be willing to add vaccinations for parvo as a part of that? Rabies is important but we get so many calls for animals that have parvo. Could we cover both of those in terms of this committee? DW – parvo is one of the greatest threats we see to unvaccinated dogs. Rabies is the reportable issue that I think helps

pet parents to do what they need to to keep up to date. If the veterinary community and the shelter system could support that; it is not something one or two people can do. It will take teamwork. KL – at one point, CC, CLV and NLV were having area wide vaccination clinics. We worked with community partners. LVVHS, HCW, NSPCA were involved. My question is can we form a committee and include a member from CCAC and also maybe RD if he would be willing to participate to set these up. It didn't cost us a lot of money. Both we and HCW contributed the vaccines and AFI did the paperwork on the rabies vaccinations so the county actually was able to put the vaccinations into their system. It might require some CCAC time. We have 200 to 300 people lining up for vaccinations. It became a logistics issue. Do you think we can take a look at doing this? JA – absolutely. RD agreed to serve on the Committee and DW will chair it. KL suggests HAROLD VOSKO (HV) serve on the committee as well. We would also like to see an emphasis on s/n as well so we could avoid some of the issues we continue to have. SSS asked if there was any funding, private or government for vaccinations? I know they have s/n funds to help. KL – that is a question we will have to ask CCAC to look at but in the past what has happened, we provided the vaccinations. It is not so much the expense of the vaccinations although they are not cheap; the issue is having veterinarians there. You have to have equipment in case the animal goes into shock. We have had to borrow the CLV's mobile command center. There are a lot of logistics issues involved and that is really the big problem; trying to get everybody to cooperate. We had all these community groups doing that. It was a community wide effort and I think DW will be able to get the veterinarians involved. That was one of the groups we haven't had before. I would say from the dog handler's standpoint, there is so much misinformation out there for people who bring these dogs to these events. They have their little collar; they can't control them. I think it is a good opportunity to talk about responsible pet ownership as well. This is a good opportunity for us.

SSS motions to set up subcommittee for rabies and other vaccinations and establishing a community effort; motion approved by all members.

9. Discuss pet store rating program

JA – an article was sent to me regarding a unique program out of Suffolk County, NY which is on Long Island. They developed the first of its kind in the nation; a program to allow pet stores to voluntarily open themselves up for inspection by a ratings board. This board would inspect the books to see where their animals were coming from; whether they were using puppy mills or local sustainable breeders; making sure they had up to date veterinarian records on all animals being sold; that they have a clean environment for the animals; water and whatever type of feed they needed available at all times. I thought I would bring this to you to see if you wanted to look into it. Throw some ideas around; look at whether we can change our code to institute some sort of a rating system whether it is based on the alphabet system like the health district or a star rating system. Five stars for an outstanding store that these stores could prominently display so customers would know they are going to a store that has met all local regulations and maybe even gone above and beyond. KL – about 3 years ago this committee passed a proposal which would have county no longer sell animals at pet shops but only animals from shelters or rescue groups. I think it was something that was proposed by Best Friends. We did recommend that it be looked at and I don't know what happened. How would that be impacted by this? It looks like we are going in separate directions. JA – doesn't know how far we would get with an all out ban on selling pets. It is something we can look into. Perhaps in the meantime while we approach that, maybe steer toward a rating system so we can ensure that standards are being upheld. If we look at an all out ban on selling pets, it will involve the industry group and what their lobby is going to do regarding any proposed ordinance. I don't know how far we can get with that. KL – We have an ACO who has certain requirements for pet shops. They go in, not just based on a complaint, and periodically inspect and look at the issue. I know that CC is much better than CLV. My organization gets continual complaints and Henderson spent a lot of time on their Title 7 trying to resolve some of those issues. How would this be different other than having a grade in terms of what the ACO is doing? In order to enforce an A grade store, isn't an ACO going to have to visit that store more frequently depending on whether it has an A, or a B or a C grade. I am trying to get a better handle on what is going to be required of CCAC if we do this. JA – as our code stands right now,

any animal care facility, anybody that is selling animals or caring for animals needs to have an inspection by us. There are operators that get a business license from us or from the state that don't necessarily call us for an inspection. This would be another level of comfort for citizens that shop at these stores to know that a professional animal agency is inspecting them. In the Suffolk County example, they have an actual independent board of five people, not ACOs that go out and do the inspections. They go through the store with a checklist and see how things are going. They only do it once a year. It could just be on the day they go everything is great. I don't know if that is enough. Meeting standards one day a year is pretty easy. Doing a more frequent inspection might be something that would benefit everybody. We can look at using a separate Board like they do whether we have a board made up of members with similar affiliations as this board or a completely different board.

DW – that would be my question, how would it be manned. Working with different pet stores over the years, there have been some that have been very good about having onsite veterinarian visits and some that we never walk in the place. The animals may come to us but seeing onsite means so much especially when we are talking about exotic species; how they are being housed; how they are being cared for. There is definitely a need for it and if we don't already have that, it would be a really good thing. The regulations are there. It is question of whether or not the public knows about them and whether or not they understand what is going on. There are regulations where they have to disclose where they are getting the pets from that they are selling. If the store chooses not to do that, they are breaking the law but the public may not know that. The public often doesn't know what they are supposed to be getting when they go into a store. This would just be another visual aid that a store that wants to play by the rules can use to promote their business. We could educate the public. If you go to a store with a pet store rating then you know this Board has inspected it; that they have met the minimum standards, maybe even exceeded them. So you know you are getting a pet that has been properly cared for. KL – do you have any idea what percentage of animals is being purchased from pet stores as opposed to rescue organizations? Have they implemented this because they have a lot of pet stores and a lot of the animals are being adopted through pet stores? Is this something we really want to promote for pet stores as opposed to trying to get people to adopt from shelters? From my humane perspective, I am having a little bit of a problem doing anything that will help pet stores. JA – comparing us to Suffolk County, NY is not fair. They are on the eastern end of Long Island and it is a completely different demographic and geographic than what we have here. It is an interesting model that they have built. I understand the desire to get people away from pet stores but we have ordinances on the books that allow the sale of pets. It would just be another layer to help the public. SSS asked if there was any literature on the program in NY. JA – they passed it in 2011 and they went live with it at the end of 2013. It took them 2 years to develop the regulations and the inspection forms and everything they are using. I can forward the article to all of you. It has very limited information at this time. This discussion item is to see if you think it is a good idea for stores in CC that sell pets, that we have a system other than a business license with a potential inspection by CCAC or do we go to something that is a more visual sign that somebody has been out there to take a look at it?

AMY ROUSE (AR) brought up a pet shop issue last meeting. Just investigating the pet shops and putting a rating on them is not going to fix the problem when we have 25,000 animals being put down a year. We just saw Phoenix pass it. New York, Ohio just signed bills with puppy mills. Investigating the pet shop, it could look really nice. It is where these puppies are coming from is the problem. Those pet shops need to start selling from the shelter just like PetSmart charities has started doing with AFI. They have had a lot of success. It puts the pets in a pet store facility which is more desirable for some people than going to the shelter. I believe it is feasible to do a complete ban. The rating system is a bad idea. It could make one pet shop look better than the other and people will think it is okay. A lot of people don't know what a puppy mill is and how disgusting it is. I go into these pet shops and talk to the people who work there and they just blatantly lie to the customer. They don't know who I am. They tell you it comes from responsible breeders in the area and people believe it. These dogs are being sold unsterilized creating more puppies. They come from inbreeding situations and are not healthy. People need to adopt. We need to enforce adoption in CC and forget about pet shops altogether. They need to be banned and we can do it.

JANA WRIGHT (JW) - Commissioner G read this article and asked me to pass it on to Animal Control. After I read this article, I started looking at Title 10 and I think Title 10 has these bases covered personally. I feel that a few years ago in unincorporated CC there were only 4 pet stores. I don't think it is necessary to change Title 10. We could talk about volunteers who go in and ask for the information the stores are supposed to be providing us. Some sting operations on a volunteer basis might be a nice direction to go. Tread lightly on moving forward please. I would like to verify how many pet stores there are in unincorporated CC.

AW agrees with the previous speaker about doing this at all. Any time we sell animals retail, we encourage breeding. It doesn't stem the animal overpopulation problem. She is also correct about employees either not being truthful or not knowing. I have done undercover investigations for PETA and she is absolutely right. It would be better not to have pet stores at all.

GG echos previous speaker's comments. Where are we on requiring pet stores to s/n? Did that go the same way? I would like to go back and revisit that. Maybe we can require pet stores to do that or shut them down. I never see the required NRS postings on the cages the pet stores that I visit. Have the pet stores been checked to make sure they are providing those written statements that have all those provisions like where the cat/dog comes from, the lineage, the medical stuff and what we worked on 2009 requires a disclosure in writing of the applicable sterilization requirements. They actually have to sign something saying they understand the puppy has to be sterilized by 4 months of age. I would like to go even further. We should be requiring, because there is a current law, the posting of the applicable sterilization requirements. I will give you the names of my vets when I leave; they are not following the law. They are not posting the applicable sterilization requirements. It is supposed to be conspicuously displayed. There are a lot more things we need to be doing with pet stores.

MICHELLE CARSON would like the officer's name who is proposing this. I am surprised that he would propose this when we are euthanizing 30,000 animals a year. I do not think it is a good solution. You are bringing in more animals to be killed when you support a pet store. I am a consumer and I adopted 2 beautiful dogs from AFL. A purebred Yorkie and a Pomeranian. I wish our community could take care of our animals and they way we could do that is to stop having pet stores. Adopt out the loving animals that are being killed every day. Pet stores are not a good idea for our city. They have all the purebred animals you could want at the shelter.

KL – the discussion as presented by JW, who is the liaison for Commissioner G, was that the Commissioner saw this article and asked that it be included in the agenda and that is why it is on the agenda. It came through CCAC but did not come from CCAC. The purpose is to look at this issue.

CLAIRE RAMSEY – as an employee of a local no kill shelter, I feel the need to speak on this issue. Previous people here have spoken about the euthanasia rate. I have a list of jurisdictions that have passed the pet store bans that includes Los Angeles, Toronto. Two studies that I read recently done by Best Friends discuss the aggression levels of animals that come from puppy mills and the extent that this aggression stays with these animals. As a rescue worker, these are things we see every day. Instead of wasting time on a rating system, ban these puppy mills from selling inside pet stores and moving to a more humane model. I would love to give them to you.

DW – wonders in the different jurisdictions where they ban pet stores, I think everybody knows the need to adopt within our communities but I am addressing the other species, such as fish and other small creatures. I support not bringing puppy mill animals into the area. I think there might still be some benefit for those that are caretaking our animals from other animals. KL – we are not just talking about dogs and cats, exotics. JA - any pet shop, they sell exotics, small mammals. All the ordinances out there that ban pet stores are dogs or dogs and cats. Oftentimes, especially with the exotics without regard to whether local ordinances allow exotic animals. For example, in CC you can't have an exotic animal without approval from the BCC but the pet stores will sell you an exotic animal. When we do our inspection of the pet

stores, we can be more diligent in educating the owners of the pet stores. It will not solve every problem where you have an employee who doesn't tell the truth or things are not properly posted, but at least at the time we are there, we can make sure they meet local requirements and educate them. KL is concerned about the exotics issue. We are seeing this nation wide. We are going to have to bring up the exotic issue at some point. Committee took no action.

10. Discuss emerging issues and information among Advisory Committee Members; create Subcommittees and assign members

KL wants the Committee to move this year and would like to have at least 2 other subcommittees, one in existence, the Equine Subcommittee. We need to look at this issue and I have asked to look at our current ordinance to make changes to address some of the issues. Has the number of horses reduced? JA – there have been several horses in my time here. We will get you those stats at a future meeting. KL – MG heads that committee and suggests SSS be part of that committee. JA – title 30 regarding horses has changed very little since 2001. KL the other subcommittee is one to look at possible ordinance changes. We discussed this in the past. One was microchipping, s/n animals from pet stores. We have a lot of issues floating out there. We did a lot of work with humane groups and we need to move forward on these. Suggests we have an ordinance change committee. Legislature comes up next year. Would like to chair that committee; would like someone from CCAC.

11. Comments by the General Public

AR – as an animal shelter volunteer, I am finding that most of the animals brought to the shelter are unfixed. When I go to dog parks or pet supply stores, the majority of those dogs are unfixed as well. When I speak to the owners of these dogs, a lot of them claim they had no idea it was the law to have your animal s/n. Some of them are aware and they really don't care. We need a better way to get the word out. Some friends and I have brainstormed some ideas. Putting a notice in with the monthly bills, such as a water bill explaining the law, what the fine is, the benefits of fixing your pet and a list of all the low cost s/n locations. Could also put a notice in with the pet license renewal letter. All veterinarian offices should have a sign and they need to speak to their clients who have unfixed pets. We need to put some responsibility on the breeders because that is where all these unfixed dogs are coming from. If you rescue a pet, those animals are already fixed. Maybe part of acquiring a breeder's permit would be to require those who buy their puppies or kittens to have them fixed. Have their customer sign a waiver that they are aware of the law. The people buying from breeders or pet stores may have no intention of breeding the pet but they may be too lazy, don't know where to go and then have an accidental litter. A PSA is another option. It won't cost the County money in fact it would cost the county less money in the long run.

GG – it is the law that vet offices are supposed to do that. It is frustrating because half of this stuff is in the law but it isn't enforced. I would like to be part of the committee proposing new laws. From what I hear, things are perfect up north so we need to deal with our problems here. I would like to see the larger pet stores post the sterilization requirements. I can give you a list of vets that are not posting the sterilization requirements. I was at a dog park in Sunset, every public park is supposed to be posting those sterilization requirements and it should not be tiny lettering on the bottom of the sign. It should be its own sign that says s/n is the law. 2014 should be the year of enforcement. I would love to see a multijurisdictional task force to address the Craig's list issue with puppies being sold. Go out, bust these people, film it and put in on Craig's list so you can continually share that message. There are people who will volunteer to do that. The ads get flagged but those people know nothing is going to happen. A few weeks ago, the guy had the address, the phone number, the puppies were there and the mother and father were on site. It was in the City but they wouldn't even go. I want to see a dedicated task force with all the other agencies to do that once a month.

12. Set date, time and agenda of next meeting

Next meeting is scheduled for April 17, 2014 at 6:30 pm in the Commission Chambers

13. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm